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Facts said suppressed

Oswald killer called informer for FBI

WASHINGTON (Reuter) — The Warren Commission which investigated President John F. Kennedy's assassination was accused yesterday by a long-time critic of suppressing a document showing that Lee Harvey Oswald's killer was an FBI informant.

Mark Lane, who has spent years arguing against the commission's contention that Oswald was a lone assassin, released to the press a letter signed by the late FBI director J. Edgar Hoover.

The letter showed that Dallas strip-club operator Jack Ruby, who killed Oswald two days after the Kennedy assassination, had acted as an FBI informant.

Mr. Lane said the letter's absence from the Warren Commission report shows that many things remain to be divulged about the November 22, 1963, assassination.

Mr. Lane, head of a private group which calls itself the Citizens Commission of Inquiry, said the Warren Commission knew of the Hoover letter concerning Ruby weeks before issuing its report.

"The Warren Commission learned that Ruby was an FBI informant, but it suppressed that information," he said.

"Now more than ever, when facts about the organized crime-U.S. intelligence partnership are emerging, do we realize that we have been told almost nothing that is true about who killed John Kennedy, why he was killed and why powerful forces have suppressed the facts for so long and still appear to fear the truth."

Several members of Congress, including Democratic Representatives Henry Gonzalez of New Mexico and Thomas Downing of Virginia, have called for a reopening of the Kennedy assassination probe.

Mr. Lane gave reporters what he said was a copy of a June 9, 1964, letter from Mr. Hoover to J. Lee Rankin, chief lawyer for the Warren Commission.

In it, Mr. Hoover told the council that an FBI agent approached Ruby in 1959 for information about criminal elements in Dallas and found him willing to talk.

"Between March 11, 1959, and October 2, 1959, Ruby was contacted on eight other occasions, but he furnished no information whatever and further contacts with him were discontinued," Mr. Hoover wrote.

Mr. Lane told reporters, "that seems to me to be a questionable assertion."